

(19) World Intellectual Property
Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
15 July 2004 (15.07.2004)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2004/058877 A1

(51) International Patent Classification⁷: **C08L 23/04**,
C08F 297/08

Hopfenstrasse 6, 65520 Bad Camberg (DE). MANTEL,
Rainer [DE/DE]; Augustaanlage 26, 68165 Mannheim
(DE).

(21) International Application Number:

PCT/EP2003/013974

(81) Designated States (*national*): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU,
AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR,
CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD,
GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR,
KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN,
MW, MX, MZ, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU,
SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA,
UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.

(22) International Filing Date:

10 December 2003 (10.12.2003)

(25) Filing Language:

English

(26) Publication Language:

English

(30) Priority Data:

102 61 064.9 24 December 2002 (24.12.2002) DE
60/445,165 5 February 2003 (05.02.2003) US

(84) Designated States (*regional*): ARIPO patent (BW, GH,
GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW),
Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM),
European patent (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE,
ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, RO, SE,
SI, SK, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA,
GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

(71) Applicant (*for all designated States except US*): **BASELL
POLYOLEFINE GMBH** [DE/DE]; Brühler Strasse,
50389 Wesseling (DE).

Published:

— *with international search report*

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

WO 2004/058877 A1

(54) Title: POLYETHYLENE COMPOSITION FOR PRODUCING L-RING DRUMS

(57) Abstract: The invention relates to a polyethylene composition with multimodal molecular mass distribution, which is particularly suitable for the blow molding of L-ring drums having a volume in the range of from 50 to 250 dm³ (I). The composition has a density in the range of from 0.950 to 0.956 g/cm³ at 23 °C and a MFR_{1,9/21,6} in the range from 1.5 to 3.5 dg/min. It comprises from 35 to 45 % by weight of a low-molecular-mass ethylene homopolymer A, from 34 to 44 % by weight of a high-molecular-mass copolymer B made from ethylene and from another 1-olefin having from 4 to 8 carbon atoms, and from 18 to 26 % by weight of an ultrahigh-molecular-mass ethylene copolymer C.

Title: Polyethylene composition for producing L-ring drums

The present invention relates to a polyethylene composition with multimodal
5 molecular mass distribution, which is particularly suitable for the blow molding
of L-ring drums with a capacity (volume) in the range of from 50 to 250 dm³ (l),
and to a process for preparing this composition in the presence of a catalytic
system composed of a Ziegler catalyst and a cocatalyst like triethylaluminum,
triisobutylaluminum, alkylaluminumchlorides and alkylaluminumhydrides, by
10 way of a multistage process composed of successive slurry polymerizations.
The invention further relates to the L-ring containers produced from the
composition by blow molding.

15 Polyethylene is widely used for producing moldings of all types requiring a
material with particularly high mechanical strength, high corrosion resistance,
and absolutely reliable long-term stability. Another particular advantage of
polyethylene is that it also has good chemical resistance and is intrinsically a
light-weight material.

20 EP-A-603,935 has previously described a blow molding composition based on
polyethylene and having a bimodal molecular mass distribution, and suitable for
the production of moldings with good mechanical properties.

25 US-A 5,338,589 describes a material with even wider molecular mass
distribution, prepared using a high-mileage catalyst known from WO 91/18934,
in which the magnesium alcoholate is used in the form of a gel-like suspension.
Surprisingly, it has been found that the use of this material in moldings permits
simultaneous improvement in properties which are usually contrary correlated
in semicrystalline thermoplastics, these being stiffness on the one hand and
30 stress-crack resistance and toughness on the other hand.

However, the known bimodal products, in particular, have relatively low melt strength during processing. This means that the extruded parison frequently break in the molten state, making the extrusion process unacceptably sensitive to processing. In addition, especially when thick-walled containers are being produced, the wall thickness is found to be non-uniform, due to flow of the polymer melt from upper regions into lower regions of the molding before solidification.

It is an objective of the present invention, therefore, to develop a polyethylene composition for blow molding which shows a further improvement over all of the known materials in processing by blow molding to produce L-ring drums. In particular, the high melt strength of the composition should permit to run an extrusion process without parison disruption over a long time period, whereas the precisely adjusted swell ratio of the composition should permit optimization of wall-thickness control. In addition, the molding composition has to be sufficiently tough for forklift and truck transportation of filled L-ring drums.

We have surprisingly found that this objective is achieved by way of a composition as mentioned at the outset, the characterizing features of which are that it comprises from 35 to 45 % by weight of a low-molecular-mass ethylene homopolymer A, from 34 to 44 % by weight of a high-molecular-mass copolymer B made from ethylene and from another 1-olefin having from 4 to 8 carbon atoms, and from 18 to 26 % by weight of an ultrahigh-molecular-mass ethylene copolymer C, wherein all of the percentage data are based on the total weight of the molding composition.

The invention also relates to a process for preparing this composition in a cascaded slurry polymerization and to a process for producing, from this composition, L-ring drums with a capacity or volume in the range of from 50 to 30 250 dm³ (l) and with quite excellent mechanical strength properties.

The polyethylene composition of the invention has a density in the range of from 0.950 to 0.956 g/cm³ at 23 °C, and a broad trimodal molecular mass distribution. The high-molecular-mass copolymer B contains only small proportions of other 1-olefin monomer units having from 4 to 8 carbon atoms, 5 namely less than 0.1 % by weight. Examples of these comonomers are 1-butene, 1-pentene, 1-hexene, 1-octene, or 4-methyl-1-pentene. The ultrahigh-molecular-mass ethylene homo- or copolymer C also contains an amount in the range from 0.1 to 0.6 % by weight of one or more of the above-mentioned co-monomers.

10

The polymer composition of the invention also has a melt flow index ISO 1133 in the range of from 1.5 to 3.5 dg/min expressed in terms of MFR_{190/21.6}, and a viscosity number VN_{tot} in the range of from 500 to 600 cm³/g measured according to ISO/R 1191 in decalin at 135 °C.

15

The trimodality is a measure of the position of the centers of gravity of the three individual molecular mass distributions, and can be described with the aid of the viscosity number VN to ISO/R 1191 of the polymers formed in the successive polymerization stages. The relevant band widths for the polymers 20 formed in each of the stages of the reaction are therefore as follows:

The viscosity number VN₁ measured on the polymer after the first polymerization stage is identical with the viscosity number VN_A of the low-molecular-mass polyethylene A and according to the invention is in the range of 25 from 160 to 220 cm³/g.

The viscosity number VN₂ measured on the polymer after the second polymerization stage is not equal to VN_B of the high-molecular-mass polyethylene B formed in the second polymerization stage, which can only be 30 determined by calculation, but rather represents the viscosity number of the

mixture of polymer A and polymer B. According to the invention, VN_2 is in the range of from 230 to 320 cm^3/g .

5 The viscosity number VN_3 measured on the polymer after the third polymerization stage is not equal to VN_C of the ultra-high-molecular-mass copolymer C formed in the third polymerization stage, which can only be determined by calculation, but rather represents the viscosity number of the mixture of polymer A, polymer B, and polymer C. According to the invention, VN_3 is in the range of from 500 to 600 cm^3/g .

10

The polyethylene is obtained by polymerizing the monomers in slurry in a temperature range of from 60 to 90 °C, at a pressure in the range of from 0,15 to 1 MPa, and in the presence of a high-mileage Ziegler catalyst composed of a transition metal compound and of triethylaluminum as organoaluminum compound. The polymerization is conducted in three stages, i.e. in three stages arranged in series, each molecular mass being regulated with the aid of a hydrogen feed.

15

The polyethylene composition of the invention may comprise other additives alongside the polyethylene. Examples of these additives are heat stabilizers, antioxidants, UV absorbers, light stabilizers, metal deactivators, compounds which destroy peroxide, and basic co-stabilizers in amounts of from 0 to 10 % by weight, preferably from 0 to 5 % by weight, and also fillers, reinforcing agents, plasticizers, lubricants, emulsifiers, pigments, optical brighteners, flame retardants, antistats, blowing agents, or a combination of these, in total amounts of from 0 to 50 % by weight, based on the total weight of the mixture.

20

The composition of the invention is particularly suitable for the blow molding process to produce L-ring drums, by first plastifying the polyethylene composition in an extruder in a temperature range of from 200 to 250 °C and

25

then extruding it through a die into a mold, where it is blown up and then cooled and solidified.

5 The composition of the invention gives particularly good processing behavior in the blow molding process to give L-ring drums because it has a swell ratio in the range of from 180 to 220 %, and the L-ring drums produced therewith have particularly high mechanical strength because the composition of the invention has a notched impact strength (ISO) in the range of from 60 to 90 kJ/m². The stress-crack resistance (FNCT) is in the range of from 15 to 25 h.

10 The notched impact strength_{ISO} is measured according to ISO 179-1/1eA / DIN 53453 at 23 °C. The size of the specimen is 10 x 4 x 80 mm, and a V notch is inserted using an angle of 45°, with a depth of 2 mm and with a notch base radius of 0.25 mm.

15 The stress-crack resistance of the composition of the invention is determined by an internal test method and is given in h. This laboratory method is described by M. Fleißner in Kunststoffe 77 (1987), pp. 45 et seq., and corresponds to ISO/CD 16770, which has since come into force. The publication shows that there is a relationship between determination of slow crack growth in the creep test on specimens with a circumferential notch and the brittle section of the long-term internal- and hydrostatic-pressure test to ISO 20 1167. In ethylene glycol as stress-crack-promoting medium at 80°C with a tensile stress of 3.5 MPa, the time to failure is shortened due to the shortening of the stress-initiation time by the notch (1.6 mm/razorblade). The specimens 25 are produced by sawing out three specimens of dimensions 10 x 10 x 110 mm from a pressed plaque of thickness 10 mm. These specimens are provided with a central notch, using a razorblade in a notching device specifically manufactured for the purpose (see Figure 5 in the publication). The notch depth 30 is 1.6 mm.

Working Example

Ethylene was polymerized in a continuous process in three reactors arranged in series. An amount of 5.5 mmol/h of a Ziegler catalyst prepared as specified in WO 91/18934, Example 2, and having the operative number 2.2 in the WO,

5 was fed into the first reactor together with 150 mmol/h triethylaluminum, as well as sufficient amounts of diluent (hexane), ethylene and hydrogen. The amount of ethylene (= 49.4 kg/h) and the amount of hydrogen (= 18 g/h) were adjusted so that the percentage proportion of ethylene and of hydrogen measured in the gas phase of the first reactor were from 49 % by volume and 43 % by volume,
10 respectively, and the rest was a mix of nitrogen and vaporized diluent.

The polymerization in the first reactor was carried out at 73 °C.

The slurry from the first reactor was then transferred into a second reactor, in

15 which the percentage proportion of hydrogen in the gas phase had been reduced to 20 % by volume, and an amount of 15 g/h of 1-butene was added to this reactor alongside with 46.9 kg/h of ethylene. The amount of hydrogen was reduced by way of intermediate H₂ depressurization. 72 % by volume of ethylene, 20 % by volume of hydrogen, and < 0.1% by volume of 1-butene were
20 measured in the gas phase of the second reactor, the rest being a mix of nitrogen and vaporized diluent.

The polymerization in the second reactor was carried out at 85 °C.

25 The slurry from the second reactor was transferred to the third reactor using further intermediate H₂ depressurization to adjust the amount of hydrogen to less than 0.1 % by volume in the gas phase of the third reactor.

30 An amount of 90 g/h of 1-butene was added to the third reactor alongside with an amount of 27.2 kg/h of ethylene. A percentage proportion of 91 % by volume

of ethylene, less than 0.1 % by volume of hydrogen, and 0.22 % by volume of 1-butene was measured in the gas phase of the third reactor, the rest being a mix of nitrogen and vaporized diluent.

5 The polymerization in the third reactor was carried out at 76 °C.

The long-term polymerization catalyst activity required for the cascaded process described above was provided by a specifically developed Ziegler catalyst as described in the WO mentioned at the outset. A measure of the usefulness of

10 this catalyst is its extremely high hydrogen sensitivity and its uniformly high activity over a long time period of between 1 to 8 h.

The diluent is removed from the polymer slurry leaving the third reactor, and the polymer is dried and then pelletized.

15

Table 1 shown below gives the viscosity numbers and quantitative proportions w_A , w_B , and w_C of polymer A, B, and C for the polyethylene composition prepared in Example 1.

20 Table 1

Example	
density [g/cm ³]	0.953
MFR _{190/21.6} [dg/min]	2.6
w_A [% by weight]	40
w_B [% by weight]	38
w_C [% by weight]	22
VN ₁ [cm ³ /g]	210

VN ₂ [cm ³ /g]	260
VN _{tot} [cm ³ /g]	540
SR [%]	200
FNCT [h]	17.5
NIS _{ISO} [kJ/m ²]	80

The abbreviations for physical properties in Table 1 have the following meanings:

5 - SR (= swell ratio) in [%] measured in a high-pressure capillary rheometer at a shear rate of 1440 s⁻¹, in a 2/2 round-section die with conical inlet (angle = 15°) at 190 °C.

10 - FNCT = stress-crack resistance (Full Notch Creep Test) tested using the internal test method of M. Fleißner, in [h].

- NIS_{ISO} = notched impact strength measured to ISO 179-1/1eA / DIN 53453 in [kJ/m²] at 23 °C.

15

* * * * *

We claim

5

1. A polyethylene composition with multimodal molecular mass distribution, which has a density in the range of from 0.950 to 0.956 g/cm³ at 23 °C and an MFR_{190/21.6} in the range of from 1.5 to 3.5 dg/min and which 10 comprises from 35 to 45 % by weight of a low-molecular-mass ethylene homopolymer A, from 34 to 44 % by weight of a high-molecular-mass copolymer B made from ethylene and from another 1-olefin having from 4 to 8 carbon atoms, and from 18 to 26 % by weight of an ultrahigh-molecular-mass ethylene copolymer C, wherein all of the percentage data are 15 based on the total weight of the molding composition.
2. A polyethylene molding composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein the high-molecular-mass copolymer B contains small proportions of less than 0.1 % by weight of co-monomer having from 4 to 8 carbon atoms, based 20 on the weight of copolymer B, and wherein the ultrahigh-molecular-mass ethylene copolymer C contains an amount in the range from 0.1 to 0.6 % by weight of co-monomers, based on the weight of copolymer C.
3. A polyethylene composition as claimed in claim 1 or 2, which, as a co- 25 monomer, contains 1-butene, 1-pentene, 1-hexene, 1-octene, 4-methyl-1-pentene, or mixtures of these.
4. A polyethylene composition as claimed in one or more of claims 1 to 3, which has a viscosity number VN_{tot} of from 500 to 600 cm³/g measured to 30 ISO/R 1191 in decalin at 135 °C.

5. A polyethylene composition as claimed in one or more of claims 1 to 4, which has a swell ratio in the range from 180 to 220 %, and a notched impact strength (ISO) in the range from 60 to 90 kJ/m², and a stress-crack resistance (FNCT) in the range from 15 to 25 h.
- 10 6. A process for producing a polyethylene composition as claimed in one or more of claims 1 to 5, in which the monomers are polymerized in slurry in a temperature range of from 60 to 90 °C at a pressure in the range of from 0.15 to 1.0 MPa, and in the presence of a high-mileage Ziegler catalyst composed of a transition metal compound and of an organoaluminum compound, which comprises conducting polymerization in three stages, wherein the molecular mass of each polyethylene prepared in each stage is regulated with the aid of hydrogen.
- 15 7. A process as claimed in claim 6, wherein the hydrogen concentration in the first polymerization stage is adjusted so that the viscosity number VN₁ of the low-molecular-mass polyethylene A is in the range of from 160 to 220 cm³/g.
- 20 8. A process as claimed in claim 6 or 7, wherein the hydrogen concentration in the second polymerization stage is adjusted so that the viscosity number VN₂ of the mixture of polymer A and polymer B is in the range of from 230 to 320 cm³/g.
- 25 9. A process as claimed in any of claims 6 to 8, wherein the hydrogen concentration in the third polymerization stage is adjusted so that the viscosity number VN₃ of the mixture of polymer A, polymer B, and polymer C is in the range of from 500 to 600 cm³/g.
- 30 10. The use of a polyethylene composition as claimed in one or more of claims 1 to 5 for producing L-ring drums with a capacity in the range of

from 50 to 250 dm³ (l), where the polyethylene composition is first plasticized in an extruder in a temperature range of from 200 to 250 °C and is then extruded through a die into a mold, where it is blown up and then cooled and solidified.

* * * * *

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
 IPC 7 C08L23/04 C08F297/08

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
 IPC 7 C08L C08F

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, WPI Data, PAJ

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	DE 199 45 980 A (ELENAC GMBH) 29 March 2001 (2001-03-29) the whole document -----	1-10
X	US 4 536 550 A (IKEGAMI TADASHI ET AL) 20 August 1985 (1985-08-20) the whole document -----	1-10
X	US 4 336 352 A (SAKURAI HISAYA ET AL) 22 June 1982 (1982-06-22) the whole document -----	1-10
A	US 6 242 548 B1 (KASPAR HARALD ET AL) 5 June 2001 (2001-06-05) the whole document ----- -/-	1-10

Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

Patent family members are listed in annex.

° Special categories of cited documents :

- °A° document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- °E° earlier document but published on or after the International filing date
- °L° document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- °O° document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- °P° document published prior to the International filing date but later than the priority date claimed

°T° later document published after the International filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

°X° document of particular relevance; the claimed Invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

°Y° document of particular relevance; the claimed Invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.

°&° document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

Date of mailing of the international search report

25 March 2004

01/04/2004

Name and mailing address of the ISA

European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2
NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk
Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl,
Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer

Van Golde, L

C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	EP 0 603 935 A (SOLVAY) 29 June 1994 (1994-06-29) cited in the application the whole document -----	1-10

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date		Patent family member(s)	Publication date
DE 19945980	A	29-03-2001	DE 19945980 A1 AT 244264 T AU 769434 B2 AU 7001700 A BR 0014232 A CA 2387708 A1 CN 1376170 T DE 50002772 D1 WO 0123446 A1 EP 1228101 A1 JP 2003510429 T	29-03-2001 15-07-2003 29-01-2004 30-04-2001 04-06-2002 05-04-2001 23-10-2002 07-08-2003 05-04-2001 07-08-2002 18-03-2003
US 4536550	A	20-08-1985	JP 1012777 B JP 1612249 C JP 59196345 A JP 1012778 B JP 1612250 C JP 59196346 A JP 60036546 A JP 1012781 B JP 1612255 C JP 60036547 A CA 1218181 A1 DE 3470168 D1 EP 0129312 A1	02-03-1989 30-07-1991 07-11-1984 02-03-1989 30-07-1991 07-11-1984 25-02-1985 02-03-1989 30-07-1991 25-02-1985 17-02-1987 05-05-1988 27-12-1984
US 4336352	A	22-06-1982	JP 1282819 C JP 56032506 A JP 59010724 B BE 884866 A1 BR 8005307 A CA 1138148 A1 DE 3031540 A1 FR 2463791 A1 GB 2056996 A , B IT 1193551 B NL 8004745 A , C	27-09-1985 02-04-1981 10-03-1984 16-12-1980 04-03-1981 21-12-1982 09-04-1981 27-02-1981 25-03-1981 08-07-1988 26-02-1981
US 6242548	B1	05-06-2001	AU 6044399 A CA 2372222 A1 EP 1185583 A1 WO 0069969 A1	05-12-2000 23-11-2000 13-03-2002 23-11-2000
EP 0603935	A	29-06-1994	BE 1006439 A3 AT 191724 T AU 670976 B2 AU 5249693 A BR 9305106 A CZ 9302853 A3 DE 69328345 D1 DE 69328345 T2 EP 1364971 A2 EP 0603935 A1 EP 0940411 A2 ES 2147192 T3 FI 935772 A GR 3033922 T3 HU 66491 A2	30-08-1994 15-04-2000 08-08-1996 30-06-1994 28-06-1994 13-07-1994 18-05-2000 07-12-2000 26-11-2003 29-06-1994 08-09-1999 01-09-2000 22-06-1994 30-11-2000 28-11-1994

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)		Publication date
EP 0603935	A	NO	934729 A	22-06-1994
		PL	301589 A1	27-06-1994
		PT	603935 T	31-10-2000
		US	6344522 B1	05-02-2002
		US	6407185 B1	18-06-2002
		US	6136924 A	24-10-2000
		ZA	9309588 A	11-08-1994

A. KLASIFIZIERUNG DES ANMELDUNGSGEGENSTANDES
IPK 7 C08L23/04 C08F297/08

Nach der Internationalen Patentklassifikation (IPK) oder nach der nationalen Klassifikation und der IPK

B. RECHERCHIERTE GEBIETE

Recherchierte Mindestprüfstoff (Klassifikationssystem und Klassifikationssymbole)
IPK 7 C08L C08F

Recherchierte aber nicht zum Mindestprüfstoff gehörende Veröffentlichungen, soweit diese unter die recherchierten Gebiete fallen

Während der Internationalen Recherche konsultierte elektronische Datenbank (Name der Datenbank und evtl. verwendete Suchbegriffe)

EPO-Internal, WPI Data, PAJ

C. ALS WESENTLICH ANGESEHENE UNTERLAGEN

Kategorie ^a	Bezeichnung der Veröffentlichung, soweit erforderlich unter Angabe der in Betracht kommenden Teile	Betr. Anspruch Nr.
X	DE 199 45 980 A (ELENAC GMBH) 29. März 2001 (2001-03-29) das ganze Dokument	1-10
X	US 4 536 550 A (IKEGAMI TADASHI ET AL) 20. August 1985 (1985-08-20) das ganze Dokument	1-10
X	US 4 336 352 A (SAKURAI HISAYA ET AL) 22. Juni 1982 (1982-06-22) das ganze Dokument	1-10
A	US 6 242 548 B1 (KASPAR HARALD ET AL) 5. Juni 2001 (2001-06-05) das ganze Dokument	1-10
		-/-

 Weitere Veröffentlichungen sind der Fortsetzung von Feld C zu entnehmen Siehe Anhang Patentfamilie^a Besondere Kategorien von angegebenen Veröffentlichungen :

"A" Veröffentlichung, die den allgemeinen Stand der Technik definiert, aber nicht als besonders bedeutsam anzusehen ist

"E" älteres Dokument, das jedoch erst am oder nach dem Internationalen Anmeldeatum veröffentlicht worden ist

"L" Veröffentlichung, die geeignet ist, einen Prioritätsanspruch zweifelhaft erscheinen zu lassen, oder durch die das Veröffentlichungsdatum einer anderen im Recherchenbericht genannten Veröffentlichung belegt werden soll oder die aus einem anderen besonderen Grund angegeben ist (wie ausgeführt)

"O" Veröffentlichung, die sich auf eine mündliche Offenbarung, eine Benutzung, eine Ausstellung oder andere Maßnahmen bezieht

"P" Veröffentlichung, die vor dem Internationalen Anmeldeatum, aber nach dem beanspruchten Prioritätsdatum veröffentlicht worden ist

"T" Spätere Veröffentlichung, die nach dem Internationalen Anmeldeatum oder dem Prioritätsdatum veröffentlicht worden ist und mit der Anmeldung nicht kollidiert, sondern nur zum Verständnis des der Erfindung zugrundeliegenden Prinzips oder der ihr zugrundeliegenden Theorie angegeben ist

"X" Veröffentlichung von besonderer Bedeutung; die beanspruchte Erfindung kann allein aufgrund dieser Veröffentlichung nicht als neu oder auf erfinderischer Tätigkeit beruhend betrachtet werden

"Y" Veröffentlichung von besonderer Bedeutung; die beanspruchte Erfindung kann nicht als auf erfinderischer Tätigkeit beruhend betrachtet werden, wenn die Veröffentlichung mit einer oder mehreren anderen Veröffentlichungen dieser Kategorie in Verbindung gebracht wird und diese Verbindung für einen Fachmann naheliegend ist

"%" Veröffentlichung, die Mitglied derselben Patentfamilie ist

Datum des Abschlusses der Internationalen Recherche

Absendedatum des Internationalen Recherchenberichts

25. Maerz 2004

01/04/2004

Name und Postanschrift der Internationalen Recherchenbehörde
Europäisches Patentamt, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2
NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk
Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl,
Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

Bevollmächtigter Bediensteter

Van Golde, L

C.(Fortsetzung) ALS WESENTLICH ANGESEHENE UNTERLAGEN

Kategorie ^o	Bezeichnung der Veröffentlichung, soweit erforderlich unter Angabe der in Betracht kommenden Teile	Betr. Anspruch Nr.
A	EP 0 603 935 A (SOLVAY) 29. Juni 1994 (1994-06-29) in der Anmeldung erwähnt das ganze Dokument -----	1-10

Im Recherchenbericht angeführtes Patentdokument		Datum der Veröffentlichung		Mitglied(er) der Patentfamilie		Datum der Veröffentlichung
DE 19945980	A	29-03-2001	DE	19945980 A1		29-03-2001
			AT	244264 T		15-07-2003
			AU	769434 B2		29-01-2004
			AU	7001700 A		30-04-2001
			BR	0014232 A		04-06-2002
			CA	2387708 A1		05-04-2001
			CN	1376170 T		23-10-2002
			DE	50002772 D1		07-08-2003
			WO	0123446 A1		05-04-2001
			EP	1228101 A1		07-08-2002
			JP	2003510429 T		18-03-2003
US 4536550	A	20-08-1985	JP	1012777 B		02-03-1989
			JP	1612249 C		30-07-1991
			JP	59196345 A		07-11-1984
			JP	1012778 B		02-03-1989
			JP	1612250 C		30-07-1991
			JP	59196346 A		07-11-1984
			JP	60036546 A		25-02-1985
			JP	1012781 B		02-03-1989
			JP	1612255 C		30-07-1991
			JP	60036547 A		25-02-1985
			CA	1218181 A1		17-02-1987
			DE	3470168 D1		05-05-1988
			EP	0129312 A1		27-12-1984
US 4336352	A	22-06-1982	JP	1282819 C		27-09-1985
			JP	56032506 A		02-04-1981
			JP	59010724 B		10-03-1984
			BE	884866 A1		16-12-1980
			BR	8005307 A		04-03-1981
			CA	1138148 A1		21-12-1982
			DE	3031540 A1		09-04-1981
			FR	2463791 A1		27-02-1981
			GB	2056996 A ,B		25-03-1981
			IT	1193551 B		08-07-1988
			NL	8004745 A ,C		26-02-1981
US 6242548	B1	05-06-2001	AU	6044399 A		05-12-2000
			CA	2372222 A1		23-11-2000
			EP	1185583 A1		13-03-2002
			WO	0069969 A1		23-11-2000
EP 0603935	A	29-06-1994	BE	1006439 A3		30-08-1994
			AT	191724 T		15-04-2000
			AU	670976 B2		08-08-1996
			AU	5249693 A		30-06-1994
			BR	9305106 A		28-06-1994
			CZ	9302853 A3		13-07-1994
			DE	69328345 D1		18-05-2000
			DE	69328345 T2		07-12-2000
			EP	1364971 A2		26-11-2003
			EP	0603935 A1		29-06-1994
			EP	0940411 A2		08-09-1999
			ES	2147192 T3		01-09-2000
			FI	935772 A		22-06-1994
			GR	3033922 T3		30-11-2000
			HU	66491 A2		28-11-1994

INTERNATIONALER RECHERCHENBERICHT

PCT/EP 03/13974

Im Recherchenbericht angeführtes Patentdokument	Datum der Veröffentlichung	Mitglied(er) der Patentfamilie		Datum der Veröffentlichung
EP 0603935	A	NO	934729 A	22-06-1994
		PL	301589 A1	27-06-1994
		PT	603935 T	31-10-2000
		US	6344522 B1	05-02-2002
		US	6407185 B1	18-06-2002
		US	6136924 A	24-10-2000
		ZA	9309588 A	11-08-1994